

ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT OFFICE

105 E. FIRST STREET
DIXON, ILLINOIS 61021
815-561-3690
WEBSITE: tomdemmer.org



CAPITOL OFFICE

314 CAPITOL
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-782-0535
EMAIL: rep@tomdemmer.com

TOM DEMMER
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER

October 24, 2022

Ms. Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2 nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

Re: US HealthVest and OSF Healthcare System Behavioral Health Hospital Letter of Support

Dear Chairwoman Savage and Members of the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board:

As an elected official, addressing my constituents' concerns is of the utmost importance to me. I am writing to express my support of the plans by US HealthVest and OSF Healthcare System to build a 100-bed adult behavioral health hospital in Peoria, Illinois through a joint venture.

Nationwide, one in five adults suffers from a diagnosable mental illness in a given year. Every day, 123 Americans die by suicide, and there is one death by suicide in the US every 12 minutes. Mental illness, whether acute or chronic, is a serious concern across communities I represent.

The design and construction of a new inpatient mental health hospital with a full continuum of services in Peoria in central Illinois will help address these unmet needs. People across Illinois who require varying levels of behavioral health care will find the compassion, support and access to clinical expertise they need, close to home.

I stand with US HealthVest and OSF in supporting patients and families throughout Illinois who are seeking local access to inpatient behavioral health care. I appreciate your consideration and request your support of this project and approval by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Demmer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Demmer
Deputy Minority Leader
Illinois House of Representatives